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LB 744

say. Many times this Legislature has put innumerable bills before the public as a constitutional amendment. I can't even recount the number of times we have asked the people to vote on a salary increase for the Legislature. I have no qualms about putting anything to a vote of the people, but particularly an item like this where we have heard so many ethical and moral arguments for and against. I think Senator Hannibal's amendment takes out all of the hypocrisy of saying it is okay to bet on the horses, it is okay to bet on bingo, it is okay to bet on pickles, but it isn't all right to put a quarter in a machine and see what numbers come up. Senator Hannibal really addresses the hypocrisy of what has been going on in the Legislature and he is saying, let's let the people decide, not statewide, but in their own communities so that we will recognize the differences between each area. I think any senator that believes in the people's right to decide for themselves, and, remember, we are talking about grown men and women, not children, I think any senator that recognizes that will have to say, yes, I believe the voice of the people collectively is more intelligent than my own single voice. As a senator representing 32,000 people, frankly, I would be very happy to have the people in my Legislative District or in my city or in my county decide because that would be the true representation of the melting pot that I represent and I represent many ethnic groups and many religious groups.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR HIGGINS: And I don't think anybody can object to allowing the people to decide, and anyone who says we are passing the buck better make sure when they say it that they never voted for a constitutional amendment on the ballot because we have all done that so many times when we felt it was necessary or when it was required. In this case it may not be necessary but it surely is the just and fair thing to do for the people. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hannibal, you may close on your amendment to the amendment, but before you do I would like to introduce some guests, in the north balcony, of Senator Rod Johnson. They are the 5th and 6th graders from Palmer,